Project Proposal

Proposal Title: **Scott M Matheson Wetlands WRP Phase II** **Proposal Number:** 1364

DWR Region: Southeastern Region **Lead Agency:** DWR **County:** Grand

Project Manager: Christopher Wood **PM Phone:** 4356133709 **Regional Priority:** High

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat **Proposed Start Date:** 07/01/2009

Project Location: Grand County, North of Moab on the Scott M. Matheson WMA

Project Description: This project is phase II of a multi year Wetland Restoration Project on the Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve.

Description of Problem/Need: The Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve is the only significant wetland ecosystem along the Colorado River in Utah. This system supports over 200 species of birds, amphibians, including the northern leopard frog, and aquatic mammals such as the beaver, muskrat and elusive river otter. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) jointly own the 900 acre wetland preserve. Through a contractual agreement the preserve is managed by TNC. This preserve is located in Moab, Utah along the banks of the Colorado River. The Preserve is currently managed for wetland ecosystem and wildlife habitat preservation and low impact recreation.

Designated as a Wildlife Management Area, hunting activities are allowed in the northern (UDWR) portion of the site. The Southern half of the preserve is a wildlife resting area and includes nature trails and interpretive displays for public education and enjoyment.

In August 2007, TNC & DWR entered into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to protect, restore, and enhance the wetland preserve. The WRP program is a Farm Bill cost-share program which covers 75% of restoration costs. The restoration effort is comprised of three main components. These components include removing portions if a dike to allow natural hydrologic flow, implementing a series of prescribed burns, and removing tamarisk and Russian olive trees.

After being funded by both NRCS' WRP program and UPCD, Phase I of this project began in August 2008. Over 100 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive were Hydro-Axed in October 2008. These areas will need follow-up treatments for numerous years. This proposal request funds to remove noxious weeds and resprouts from the treated areas. These areas will also be revegetated with thousands of cuttings, bare root shrubs/trees, and larger young trees.

In Spring 2009, the dike removal will begin. Due to the significant ground work that is required to remove the dike, noxious weed and non-native resprouts is anticipated. This proposal requests funds to remove noxious weeds and resprouts in the area where the dike has been remove and dirt work as occurred. This area will also be revegetated with hundreds of wetland plant plugs, small native tree saplings, willow cuttings, and larger young trees.

30 acres adjacent to the WRP work have previosly been treated with a brushax and chain saw hand crews. The Russian Olive resprouts in these areas are significant and need additional work and treatment using herbicide.

Due to the large Slough 2 Fire and the smaller Slough Fire in 2008, the presribed burns that were planned for November 2008 have been post poned until winter 2010.

Objectives: Over all Objectives of the WRP include:
1. Restore natural hydrologic flow between the Central Pond and the South Pond on the Preserve by removing the dike.
2. Remove non-native Tamarix on sites in the Preserve with the highest potential for successful restoration.
3. Increase native grass and forb species by reseeding the restoration areas with a seed mixture of native species.
4. Increase native tree/shrub species in restoration areas by removing non-natives and replanting native species.
5. Reduce bulrush cover and dead litter through implementation of a prescribed burn. Increase vegetative biodiversity in areas that are currently covered with decadent bulrush.
6. Restore wildlife habitat through the removal of non-natives and increased native species
7. Decrease the fuel load, reduce the probability of a catastrophic fire, and protect native shrub/tree stands on the Preserve by removing defoliating Tamarix.

Objectives of Phase II include: 1. Reduce noxious weeds and nonnative resprouts in treatment areas. 2. Revegetate treatment areas with native wetland species, willows, cottonwoods, and other desired native plants and shrubs.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: According to the Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) the lowland riparian habitat type is the most critical habitat type in Utah.

This area is within the UPCD-SER Wetland Conservation Focus Area.

This area is a within the local Tamarix working group's (SEUTP) priority focus area.

Potential Risks: If this phase of the project is not implemented, noxious weeds and olives will dominate the site. There are risks that plants will not survive after they are planted. Site potential and proper techniques will minimize mortality.

Proposed Methods: Contractors will treat noxious weeds and Russian olive resprouts on 139 acres. Noxious weeds will be sprayed and olive resprouts will be cut and treated with herbicide.

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DWR and TNC will sponsor two wetland restoration days in Fall 2009. We will hire a contractor to assist us with this event. The contractor will supply tools, equipment, crew leaders, assist with volunteer transportation, and provide expertise and project oversight. 3850 plants, cuttings, bare root stock, and gallon sized trees will be planted during these two events.

Russian olive resprouts will be treated in areas adjacent to the WRP treatment areas. DWR personnel and other contractors will be treating these areas. DWR and TNC request funds to purchase Garlon for this area.

Shapefile Name: 1364

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☑ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☑ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: As part of a large scale research project, the Conservancy and partners will establish long term monitoring transects on site. These transects will be established and monitored in areas where the tamarix has been mechanically removed. These transects will be set up to document vegetative response to mechanical removal vs mechanical removal & chemical treatment.

Bird surveys (mist netting) have been conducted by UDWR on the Matheason Wetlands for years. These surveys will continue post treatment.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Waterfowl	Mule Deer	Rio Grande Wild Turkey	Broad-tailed Hummin
Lucy's Warbler	Yuma Myotis	Neotropical Birds	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher			

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
DWR	85
Other	84
Total	169

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
NRCS	$17,985.00		$0.00
DNR Watershed (FY10)	$13,340.00		$0.00
Totals	***$31,325.00***		***$0.00***

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Materials and Supplies	Wetland plants/plugs, 500 X $2	$250.00	$750.00
Materials and Supplies	Tree/Shrub cuttings, 1700 X $2	$850.00	$2,550.00
Materials and Supplies	Tree/Shrub bare root stock 1100 X $4.25	$1,168.75	$3,300.00

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Materials and Supplies	Trees/Shrub 1 gallon 550 X 8	$1,375.00	$3,300.00
Contractual Services	Resprouts trtment & noxious weed control 139 acres	$2,695.00	$8,085.00
Materials and Supplies	66 gallons of Garlon	$5,161.25	$0.00
Contractual Services	Tree planing contractor, crew for 2 volunteer days	$1,840.00	$0.00
	Totals	***$13,340.00***	***$17,985.00***

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Waterfowl	50
Nongame Wildlife	50
Total	***100.00%***

Project Map:

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